



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 13, 2020

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch
U.S. House of Representatives
Chairman, Subcommittee on National Security
Committee on Oversight and Reform
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Lynch:

We write to urge you to hold a hearing examining the atrocities being committed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) against religious minorities in that country. We must determine the extent of the CCP's suppression of minorities, ensure that the administration is doing everything in its power to respond, and examine whether there is a need for additional legislation. It is time to shine a bright light on these atrocities and the actions of the CCP.

As a Republic founded on the self-evident truth that men are endowed with certain inalienable rights, our country stands with those who face religious persecution, wherever they are.¹ It is the policy of the United States to condemn violations of religious freedom and to promote religious freedom around the world.² I am encouraged by recent actions by President Trump to signal that the United States is a global leader on this issue, including by issuing an Executive order recognizing that religious freedom around the world "is a moral and national security imperative."³

We are particularly disturbed by recent evidence – coming from data taken from the CCP's own documents that the CCP is conducting mass forced sterilizations of women, forced abortions, and utilizing mandatory invasive birth control measures to reduce family size among the Uighur people.⁴ Those who resist or violate these forced abortion and birth control policies may be placed in internment camps, which already hold over a million ethnic Uighurs.⁵

¹ See International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, Pub. L. No. 104-292, § 2 (1998) (finding that the United States prizes a legacy of religious freedom, which is a universal human right, and articulating that it is the policy of the United States to condemn violations of religious freedom and to promote the fundamental right to freedom of religion abroad.); see also Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act, Pub. L. No. 114-281, (2016) (amending and strengthening the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998).

² *Id.*

³ Exec. Order No. 13926, 85 FR 34951 (Jun. 2, 2020) available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/06/05/2020-12430/advancing-international-religious-freedom>.

⁴ *China Suppression of Uighur Minorities Meets U.N. Definition of Genocide, Report Says*, (Jul. 4, 2020) NPR, transcript available at <https://www.npr.org/2020/07/04/887239225/china-suppression-of-uighur-minorities-meets-u-n-definition-of-genocide-report-s>.

⁵ Stephanie Nebehay, *U.N. Says it has credible reports that China holds million Uighurs in secret camps*, REUTERS (Aug. 10, 2018), <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-rights-un/u-n-says-it-has-credible-reports-that-china-holds-million-uighurs-in-secret-camps-idUSKBN1KV1SU>.

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The CCP was already systematically working to exterminate the presence of Uighur culture and religion, including by incarcerating over a million people, but now they are even trying to eliminate Uighur families and suppress births. This is genocide and it demands immediate action.

I, along with a group of 76 other bipartisan, bicameral colleagues, recently called on the Trump Administration to implement sanctions for those working with CCP authorities responsible for forced sterilizations and abortions pursuant to 8 U.S.C. 1182e.⁶ The Administration heeded that call to action and began implementing those sanctions on July 9, 2020.⁷ I am pleased that the Administration recognizes the CCP's attacks on religious freedom and is taking them seriously.

This Subcommittee must determine what more can be done to stand up for the oppressed and hold the CCP accountable for these egregious violations of human dignity. We cannot sit idly by and permit the CCP to wipe out a religious minority.

I request an immediate in-person hearing to examine the role of the CCP in perpetrating genocide and determine whether any gaps exist and what legislative solutions are needed to fill them. Even if this was not a pressing domestic and global national security issue, it is our moral duty to stand for those that cannot stand for themselves.

I look forward to working with you on this important matter. To schedule the hearing or ask any follow-up or related questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform staff at (202) 225-5074.

Sincerely,



Glenn Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security

⁶ Letter from Marco Rubio, et. al., U.S. Senator, to Mike Pompeo, Secretary, U.S. Dep't. of State & Steven T. Mnuchin, Secretary, U.S. Dep't. of the Treasury (July 2, 2020), *available at* https://www.portman.senate.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/4EB21E943B827F47FD4815E93FB20595.20.07.02ltrpompeomnuchinuyghurs_0.pdf.

⁷ Global Magnitsky Designations, Specially Designated Nationals List Update (Jul. 9, 2020), Office of Foreign Assets Control, U.S. Dep't. of the Treasury, *available at* <https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/OFAC-Enforcement/Pages/20200709.aspx?src=ilaw>.